



# Montgomery County Council

*From the office of Councilmembers Phil Andrews and Tom Perez*

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**News Advisory****July 20, 2005**

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Contact: Bobbie Walton 240-777-7983 or Dan Parr at 240-777-7954

**COUNCILMEMBERS ANDREWS, PEREZ TO SUPPORT  
RETENTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT RISK IN GAITHERSBURG  
CONDO CONVERSION AT *THURSDAY AM* NEWS CONFERENCE**

Councilmember Phil Andrews and Council President Tom Perez will join Housing Opportunities Commission executive director Scott Minton at a news conference tomorrow morning to highlight the need to save 157 affordable housing units in a 784 apartment complex in Gaithersburg – Oakwood Apartments -- which would be converted to condominiums under a proposed sale.

Although the County's Housing Opportunities Commission by law has the right of first refusal to match any existing offer and purchase the property, the owner, South Bay Apartments – Van Nuys, a California company, is refusing to recognize that right.

At present, residents earning 50 to 60 percent of the area median income are eligible for the affordable units. Attempts to negotiate retention of those units in the event of sale have not succeeded – and so HOC is interested in purchasing the complex for \$116 million.

**WHEN:** Thursday, July 21 11 AM

**WHERE:** In front of the Oakmont Apartments, 9806 Mahogany Drive in Gaithersburg.

**CONTACT:** 301-910-4476

*Directions: I-270 to Sam Eig Highway. Left on Fields Road. Go one-tenth of a mile past the first light to Oakwood Apartments on the left (across from a farm on the right and backs to the Rio Complex).*